

Mission Accomplished !

PP Summary : To the End of the Earth.

Mark 16: 15 March 18-19

As we get into this summary of this long series of messages that started on September 2020 and were preached by many pastors, elders, and many brothers in Christ. Let's be reminded as Pastor Tim stated since the beginning of the series that, There may not be a more exciting book in the Bible than Acts. It's like having an embedded reporter there at the birth of the church and all through her rapid expansion. That is in fact, what we have as Luke carefully recorded the history of the church, beginning with the final words of Jesus before He returned to His Father:

PP "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8.

It is a worldwide mission that we have, and as we will see, it is a mission that cannot be stopped. But it can be slowed. Not by outside forces so much as internal apathy and complacency within the church. The church must wake up and get on the move and live out the mission we have been given.

PP1- All series are focused on the mission given to us.

This series challenged us to get moving, to be the invincible church all the way to the end of the earth. Look what Jesus commanded them and us today... 'you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the

earth.” It took these apostles 30 years, and the entire world heard of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

So how did a group of uneducated believers accomplish this monumental task in 3 decades? They believed that every single Christian was a witness, sent by their Lord and Savior into a spiritually dead world with the life-giving truth of the gospel.

The early church was phenomenally successful as witnesses of Jesus, but something happened they soon forgot their mission while the world’s population kept growing. The best estimate of the world’s population in the 1st century is at most 330 million. Today, there are nearly 8 billion people alive around the world. Of them, 4.5 billion people have not heard or been taught the Good News of Jesus Christ. Don’t assume that your own neighbors heard of the Good News of Jesus Christ, or the people you work with, or your classmates you go to school with. Christian brothers and sisters, you have been given the Holy Spirit to be witnesses of Jesus! Everywhere you go, or in every place, you go.

To testify, speak, share, and declare to the unsaved that Jesus lived, died, and raised to life. Did you know 97-98% of practicing Christians believe It is important to witness to others 73%, of Millennial Christians say they know how to answer someone who has faith questions, but 74% of Christians seldom do, with 93% of Christian grandparents uncomfortable talking about Christ with their grandkids.

Are you noticing the necessity that people have to hear the word of God now, today, and tomorrow?

PP 2-The witnessing opportunity (5:27-32).

I would like you to remember when you are in moments of trouble that might be the moment to talk to others and show who is your God, who do you believe?

As we saw when an angel freed the Apostles from prison and told them to get right back to the temple and 'speak to the people all the words of this Life' 5:20.

It is amazing how God can use you.

When you share the good news of what God has done to save sinners by sending His Son Jesus, you are literally sharing the words of life.

Oh, my brothers, how big is the necessity that people have to hear the Gospel!

PP "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

Here is the message of the simple, life-giving message of the gospel:

PP "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

PP 3-The result...the church was unified and grew and many were saved

Look with me at Chapter 6 verse 4 where the Apostles said, select these 7 men, “Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word.”

Do you want to know what the Apostles valued as their greatest ministry?.

Not the soup kitchen, not the moving ministry, not the choir or snow removal ministry, but for prayer and preaching.

The result was the ministry of the gospel grew: “The word of God continued to increase’ (Chapter 6 verse 7).

Acts 6 provokes an important question: **PP is a good thing keeping us from the best thing?**

It was good for the Apostles to take care of these widows, I am not saying that you were not but the best way to preach and pray.

What good things might be keeping you from the best, and what adjustment needs to be made?.

It is a good thing to get to the gym and make your body healthy, but the best thing is to exercise your faith and make that strong.

It is a good thing to relax on a beach or a mountain cabin, but the best thing is that your rest will lead to a reinvigorated service for our God.

It is good to have strategy and process in a church, but does it lead to the great, faith in a God Who repeatedly does “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined” 2 Corinthians 2:9.

Prayer calls on God's presence and power to help us proclaim this good news, and witnessing is the means of its proclamation.

Each of us would profit by pondering our prayer life: Are we prayer-full or prayer-less?.

If you want to see if there is pride in your life...examine your prayer life.

If you want to feel the strength of your faith...examine your prayer life.

If you want to discern how well you love people...examine how often you pray for them.

An anemic prayer life is a mark of a vain and prideful Christian, while a strong, intimate, satisfying one marks you as one who is following after Jesus Christ.

Perhaps reflect on just how much great we are missing in our pursuit of the good.

We tend to be stronger in the Word than in prayer, but the Apostles were faithful in both, "and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith." Acts 6:7.

PP 4-The One Who can rescue you has come.

It is wonderful to speak of God's love, but to begin talking of a lost person's sin can be difficult.

Yet, if the bad news isn't so bad, the good news doesn't look so good. After all, good people may believe their goodness is enough

which is what many religious groups make people believe, or that only a little help is needed to be saved.

But gospel witnessing is more than telling someone that God is calling them, more than just pointing out their spiritual condition, it is telling of the One Who can rescue and give life and forgiveness And Stephen does just that throughout chapter 7, and here is how he did it.

Joseph, Moses, the law, and the temple all pointed to the One who would come and rescue us. Joseph in verse 13, 'made himself known to his brothers. Jesus had done the same in Israel Just as Joseph called his family to him (Verse 7:14), and saved them with grain during a famine, Jesus has become the Bread of life (Jn 6:35), saving desperate people whom He calls to Himself, Just as Moses, verse 20, was beautiful in God's sight at his birth, so was Jesus, even more, as all the angels sang at His birth Just as Moses, verse 22, was 'mighty in words and deeds even more so was Jesus.

Just as Moses was sent by God, verse 35 as 'both ruler and redeemer', leading his people out of Egypt into the promised land, Jesus is the true Redeemer and King of all kings, leading His people out of death and into life.

That was Stephen's greatest point and his entire sermon led to it: "And they (your Fathers) killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One" 7:52.

You are even worse than your faithless fathers, for you killed the Righteous One, Jesus Christ. Remember that I told you this was the 3rd time the Sanhedrin heard the gospel?.

The first time Peter told them, PP “This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:11–12.

The second time Peter told them, PP “The God of our fathers raised Jesus, Whom you killed by hanging Him on a tree. God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.” Acts 5:30–31

Now, Stephen declared that Jesus was sent by God to bring us out of the old and into the new, to rescue us from our rebellious hearts, and He did this as the Living Word Who redeemed us from all sin through His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection.

PP “For our sake [God] made [Jesus] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

My brothers, if we are to witness well, our words must center on the One Who came to rescue us.

A lost sinner does not need to perform better, clean up his or her actions, or tip the balance of the scales to good works, but simply and beautifully rest on the finished work of Jesus.

He paid it all, He is the Redeemer Who rescues rebels and takes them from the old into the new life.

To finish this summary Paul focussed on 2 topics: The kingdom of God and everything concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have to imitate the ministry of Paul and continue writing the book of acts.

If Christ's authority is absolute and extends from earth to heaven, when we go throughout this world we have nothing to fear - not earthly governments, natural disasters, satan's oppositions, spiritual warfare, nor to diseases, nor to death (Matthew 10: 28).

In Christ, we have his promises and in the gospel, we have his power. When his message of life intercepts my spiritual death, I began to live. When his message penetrates the human mind, it illuminates it and the heart sensitizes it. When his message finds my directionlessness in life, it gives it direction, and when the Goods news finds my wounds, it heals them.

The great commission is the way to bring the nations into the lordship of Christ and to destroy the idols and pagan gods that enslave people there are still millions of people that have not heard the gospel, and thousands of people die every without ever having experienced the joy of the nations, the redemption of their souls and theirs condition.

Romans 10: 14-15 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Are you ready to accomplish God's Mission given to you?

Let's Pray!